

## 2016 Rusk County Land & Water Resource Management Plan Revision

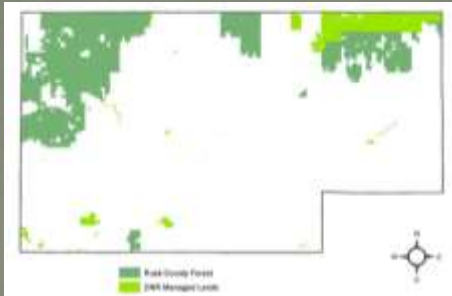


## Rusk County



- 584,565 acres
- 900 mi<sup>2</sup>
- ~ 60% Forested
- ~ 35% Agriculture
- ~ 2% Lakes & Streams

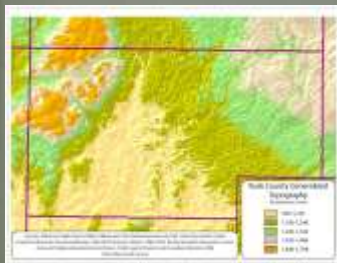
## Rusk County Forest and State Managed Land



- ~88,000 acres of Rusk County Forest
- ~20,000 acres of DNR Managed Lands
- ~105,000 acres in Managed Forest Law / Private Forest Crop



## Topography and Drainage



- The entire county lies within an area of recent glaciation.
- Stream valleys are shallow, and drainage is not well established.
- County is dotted and laced with numerous wetlands and small unnamed lakes.
- Glaciation has resulted in a general drainage pattern from northeast to southwest.

## Surface Water Resources



- 266 lakes
  - 90 named
  - 176 unnamed.
- Many of the lakes in the county have brownish water of low transparency mostly caused by dissolved organics from decaying plant material.
- 69 named streams
  - 430 miles in Rusk County
  - 124 miles of stream are classified trout water.
- 3 Major Rivers
  - Chippewa
  - Flambeau
  - Thornapple

## Trout Streams



## Watersheds

- 14 watersheds
- 3 on west in Lower Chippewa
- 11 on east in Upper Chippewa

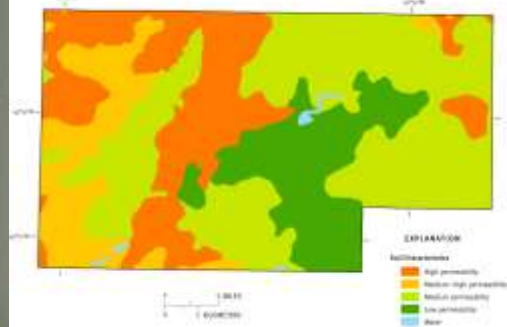


## Generalized Soils



- Deposits of glacial drift (a mixture of sand, silt, clay and boulders) cover the majority of county.
- Depth of glacial drift material varies from several inches to over 100 feet.
- Many depression areas are filled with peat or muck.
- Along the Chippewa River is a broad sandy plain 2 to 8 miles wide.

Rusk County - Soil Characteristics



## Agriculture



- Major production areas are
- Dairy
    - 124 operating dairy farms in 2014
    - about 11,500 cows
  - Grains
    - ~26,000 acres
    - 50% corn
    - 40% soybean
  - Livestock production
    - 32,000 cattle and calves
  - Hay
    - 14,500 acres in 2009

(UWEX, 2014)

## Soil and Water Resource Management Grant Program and Nonpoint Source Program

- 2013-2015 Average Staff and Support – \$103,890
- 2012-2014 Cumulative Total Bond Cost-Share Dollars Spent – \$131,179
- Land Conservation & Development Director – 20%
  - CeCe Tesky
- Conservationist – 100%
  - John Krell
- Engineering Technician – 100%
  - Jonny Runstrom
- Administrative Assistant – 50%
  - Colleen Schott
- 2012-2014 Cumulative Average Under Spending – 1%



## Farmland Preservation & Nutrient Management

- 7 Contracts
  - All expire by 2020
  - 5 that need to follow new 151 standards (2008)
  - 1,167 acres under FPP
- Anticipated trends that will impact farmland
  - Land fragmentation
  - "Living in the woods"
  - Second homes/Cabins
  - Recreational use
- Nutrient Management
  - Held first farmer NMP training February 2015.
  - Second training will be later this month.
  - About 8,300 acres of Rusk Co. farmland has had NMP



## Environmental Issues/Concerns

- Groundwater Pollution
- Surface water pollution
- Land fragmentation and loss of wildlife habitat
- Invasive species
- Farmers/farmland
- Student and general public outreach
- Ag waste management
- Nutrient management planning
- Cost-share grant programs
- Erosion Control



## Tree Sales



- 5,000 trees and shrubs each year
- 10 Species
  - Maple
  - Pine
  - Spruce
  - Plumb
  - Chokecherry
  - Apple

## Public/Student Outreach

- Rusk County Farm Show
- Rusk County Junior Fair
- LWCD Facebook
- Trees for Schools
- Trails End Youth Camp
- Environmental Challenge



## Speaking Contest



## Cost Share Program

- The purpose of our Cost Share Program is to assist farmers and land owners financially to improve their land or operation to help eliminate any resource concerns that they might have.

### Types of resource concerns:

- Erosion
- Animal Waste Runoff
- Silage and Feed Runoff
- Unused Water Wells
- Over Used Pasture
- Animals in Streams
- Unused Manure Pits

### Cost Share Projects:

- Manure Storage
- Animal Feed Lots
- Feed Storage
- Water Well Abandonment
- Rotational Grazing
- Watering Facility
- Stream Crossings
- Manure Storage Abandonment





## Critical Area Stabilization

Dairyland Reservoir



## Prescribed Grazing Fencing

Converting sensitive cropland to a managed grazing system



## Sheep Farm Barnyard Runoff System




## Waste Storage Abandonment

What was  
in there?

- Glass
- Hazle
- Porcelain
- Wires
- Shingles
- Tires





- Goal 1: Protect and improve the quality of surface waters
  - Reduce sediment delivery and phosphorus delivery
- Goal 2: Improve surface water quality by implementing erosion control and other stormwater management practices
  - Ensure erosion control and stormwater management standards are met
- Goal 3: Conserve and protect productive agricultural lands
  - Preserve productive farmland (FPP)
- Goal 4: Protect groundwater quality and quantity
  - Seal/protect direct conduits to groundwater to prevent contamination
- Goal 5: Administer ordinances under LWCD jurisdiction and permits issued by LWCD
  - Administer the county animal waste storage and nutrient management ordinance
- Goal 6: Maintain, protect and improve surface water resources
  - Work with landowners and agencies to minimize soil erosion and protect water quality
- Goal 7: Establishment of point/nonpoint nutrient trading program
  - Establish local trading workgroup and begin pilot nutrient trading program
- Goal 8: Demonstrate program effectiveness
  - Monitor countywide erosion potential (transect)
- Goal 9: Spend local and state cost-share and staffing dollars effectively
  - Use LWRM plan as a tool to acquire additional cost-share and staffing dollars from other sources
- Goal 10: Improve forest management on private lands
  - Provide tools for woodland management

Thank you!

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